

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 01239 091625Z

45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 OPR-02 ST-01 PER-03 OC-05 CCO-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 /073 W

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R 041212Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2555

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON

UNCLAS MANAMA 1239

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (KUWAIT ADDED AS INFO ADDRESSEE)

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/EX AND A/O

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS EEC OTRA, AFIN, BA

SUBJECT : BEIRUT SITUATION AND FLY AMERICAN FLAG CARRIER POLICY

REFERENCE : DOHA 1207

1. FORTUNATELY IN RECENT WEEKS QUESTION OF WHETHER BEIRUT IS NEAREST POINT OF CONNECTION WITH AMERICAN FLAG CARRIER HAS BEEN ACADEMIC INsofar THIS POST IS CONCERNED. SHOULD THE QUESTION HAVE ARISEN AS PRACTICAL MATTER, IN THE ABSENCE OF GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT WE, AS DOHA, WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED BEIRUT NOT TO FALL WITHIN NORMAL INTERPRETATION OF TRAVEL REGULATIONS BECAUSE OF TROUBLE THERE. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING FOR PAST FEW MONTHS IN BEIRUT, AND BECAUSE OF COMMUNICATION LAGS, IT HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR
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THIS POST TO DETERMINE WITH

CONFIDENCE AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT
THAT IT WILL BE SAFE FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO TRANSIT
BEIRUT. WE, TOO, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AND
ASSUME THAT AN OVERALL VIEW OF LIKELY SECURITY SITUATION IN
BEIRUT OVER COMING MONTHS RATHER THAN THE VICISSITUDES OF
PAN AMERICAN SERVICE THERE WOULD BE THE CONTROLLING
CONSIDERATION.

2. IN ANY EVENT, AS WE UNDERSTAND CURRENT TRAVEL REGULATIONS,
THE REALITIES OF AIRLINE SERVICES AND SCHEDULES FROM BAHRAIN
VIRTUALLY PRECLUDE CONSIDERING BEIRUT AS THE NEAREST POINT OF
CONTACT WITH AN AMERICAN FLAG CARRIER EVEN IN NORMAL TIMES.
DEPARTMENT CONFIRMATION OF THIS INTERPRETATION WOULD ALSO BE
HELPFUL.

TWINAM

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